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16 February 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

[REDACTED]
Office of General Counsel

FROM:

Chief, International Shipping Branch
Trade and Services Division, ORR

THROUGH:

Chief, Trade and Services Division, ORR

1. Attached are two tables containing the data requested by Bob Michaels, Senior Staff Member, Defense Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee, on the composition of miscellaneous general cargoes imported by sea into North Vietnam in 1965 and on exports by North Vietnam to selected countries of the Free World for the first half of 1964 and first half of 1965.

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3. Data are insufficient for a valid estimate of North Vietnam's exports to the Free World in 1965. We have therefore provided data in Table 13, which is unclassified, on exports during the first half of 1964 and the first half of 1965 on North Vietnam's exports to France, West Germany, Japan, Malaya, and Hong Kong. These countries accounted for more than 80 percent of North Vietnam's exports to the Free World in both years. The data show that North Vietnam's exports to these countries in the first half of 1965 exceeded those of the first half of 1964. Shipping data, however, indicate that North Vietnam's exports to the Free World in the second half of 1965 were about 36 percent less than in the first half of 1965. Specifically the volume of coal exports to Free World countries decreased by 28 percent, cement exports by 58 percent, pig iron by 54 percent, and all other exports by 59 percent. Because these exports to the Free World provide the only significant source of foreign exchange for North Vietnam, the sharp decrease in exports to the Free World in the second half of 1965 represent a considerable loss to the economy of North Vietnam.

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